



NEWS RELEASE

OLYMPIA SNOWE

U.S. Senator for Maine



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SNOWE SELECTED TO SERVE ON SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

*Senator will put two decades of experience on fighting terrorism, national security,
and foreign affairs to work as member of select panel*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Olympia J. Snowe (R-Maine) today announced she has been selected to serve on the Select Senate Committee on Intelligence, which will play a leading role in the ongoing investigation of September 11th, rooting out terrorism throughout the world, and overseeing the coordination and operations of the nation's intelligence agencies.

"Terrorist attacks changed the paradigm for our nation's defense, and placed America's Intelligence infrastructure squarely at the center of our homeland and national security network. I believe we must continue to move heaven and earth to identify and close gaps that have been clearly identified in this system. One crucial step will occur in the coming year, when the independent, bipartisan investigation into the September 11th attacks reports to the Committee," said Senator Snowe. "I believe success in advancing our nation's anti-terrorism relies on the "Three C's" that have been lacking among those federal agencies integral to preventing terrorism: coordination, communication, and cooperation. As we turn to a new Department of Homeland Security, and continue to root out terrorism throughout the world, I will be vigilant to ensure we move forward, utilizing the lessons of the past."

Senator Snowe has built up more than two decades of experience on national security policy, including four years on the Senate Committee on Armed Services, two years as Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on International Operations, and 12 years as Ranking Member on the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on International Operations. These subcommittees oversee visa security, embassies, and counter-terrorism policy, and in this role, Senator Snowe spearheaded an investigation into the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, and authored legislation to require information sharing and shore up embassy security. In 1993 and 1994, Snowe and Rep. Dan Mica (D-Fla.) conducted an investigation into the causes of the bombing and the radical Egyptian cleric Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman, mastermind of the 1993 attack, who entered and exited the U.S. *five times* totally unimpeded. More recently, Sheikh Rahman's Islamic Jihad organization merged with Al Qaeda, and the Sheikh entrusted two of his sons to the care of Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan.

In addition to her new post on the Intelligence Committee, Senator Snowe will serve as Chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, as well as a member of the Senate Finance Committee and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, where she chairs the subcommittee on Oceans and Fisheries.

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